



‘Getting Started’ using technology to enhance student transition into university

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Using Technology to Enhance Learning
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Session Learning Outcomes

- By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:
 - Identify the benefits of transition support for students entering higher education.
 - Review the value of the early development of ‘research-mindedness’ and ‘preparation for academic practice’ through pre-induction activities.
 - Describe alternative technologies for providing pre-entry support.
 - Consider the effectiveness of early preparation for academic practices.



Workshop format

1. Initial presentation
(15 min)
2. Delegates divide into small groups to consider the issues involved in using technology to provide transition support in own discipline or institution.
(15 min)
3. Group feedback and discussion
(15 min)



Initial Presentation

- Getting Started; pre-enrolment support for student higher education experience.
- Pro-active management of transition key to student retention and success.
(Yorke & Longden, 2008)
- All students in receipt of a 'firm' offer invited to participate (July-Sept 2011).
- Generic site and five Faculty sites containing subject specific content.

Student as Producer

- Introduction to academic practice.
- Introduction to Student as Producer, 'research mindedness' and the role of research at the heart of academic practice.

(<http://studentasproducer.lincoln.ac.uk>)



Getting Started Home Page



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'Getting Started' 2011

Welcome to the 'Getting Started' project on Blackboard.



Getting Started is all about getting ready for your higher education experience before you arrive on campus for enrolment. There are two areas. The 'Getting Started' Main Site contains information about coming to university including getting organised and an introduction to academic practices for when your studies begin. The 'Getting Started' Site for your area of study may contain subject specific information about your course.

Links to these sites can be found in the Module box below. To return to this page at anytime, click the Getting Started 2011 Tab at the top of this Blackboard screen.

'Getting started' Any Questions?



The '[Any Questions?](#)' Discussion Forum is on the Getting Started site. It is for the University of Lincoln who are the 'experts' on what it's like to be a student at the University of Lincoln, what to expect in your first few weeks, or anything else which you may want to ask, then this is the place to visit.

Click the '[Any Questions?](#)' link to go straight there. To return to this page at any time, click the 'Getting Started 2011' tab at the top of this Blackboard screen.

'Getting Started' Sites

The following Getting Started sites are available to you:

- [Beginning with BB](#)
- [Biopsychology](#)
- [PGCE Online](#)
- [Social Work Online Courses](#)
- [Pharmaceuticals](#)
- [HST2036 Pilot](#)
- [Introduction to Mechanical Engineering - 0909](#)
- [B6 Administrators](#)
- [pre registration 2007](#)
- [flasklight](#)
- [Equine Health, Behaviour and Welfare](#)
- [Academic Writing Desk](#)
- [Research & Development with Web 2.0](#)


'Getting Started' Find the University of Lincoln here



[University of Lincoln official Facebook page](#)

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Getting Started Main Site

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Getting Started 2011The Graduate SchoolHome**Sites**LibraryCommunity

gettingstarted-1112 'Getting Started' Main SiteAnnouncements

gettingstarted-1112 ('Getting Started' Main Site)

Announcements

'Any Questions?'

Living in Lincoln

Getting Organised

Academic Practices


StudentasProducer


The Library

Disability Service

Students' Union

Evaluation

**Getting
Started**

**Announcements**

Welcome all new students to Getting Started

Posted on: Thursday, September 8, 2011

Hello everyone; welcome to **Getting Started**. This site is all about offering information about coming to university and preparing here like writing assignments and making notes in lectures. If you have any queries please post them to Lindsay and James in (left) who are answering from their own experiences as students here at the University. Don't forget to check out your Faculty G subject specific information for you. Any problems with links or anything you don't understand send me an email - I'm Sue Wat swatling@lincoln.ac.uk



Research findings

- Over 2000 potential students accessed Bb.
- Over 650 responded to the survey so far...
- **What did students like?**
 - Getting Organised.
 - Introduction to Academic Practice.
 - The Library.
- **What did students want?**
 - Reading lists and Activities.
 - Contact with existing students and staff.
 - More help with using Blackboard.



Institutional issues

- Using technology to enhance student transition into university requires:
 - Buy-in from Senior Management.
 - Technical Systems and Helpdesk Support.
 - Departmental/Faculty leads.
 - Guidance for programme level content.
 - Clear navigation to Faculty content.
 - Staff and existing student engagement across the Summer.



Quotes

- ‘By introducing a ‘Getting Started’ package it made settling into uni here so much easier.’
- ‘It was a great ‘keeping warm’ strategy that made me feel part of the Uni before I even started.’
- ‘Helped to calm me down and think rationally about what uni was going to be about.’
- ‘I found the discussion forum with previous students the most useful as you could ask almost anything and they were able to help from past experience.’



Group Questions

- **VLE or Not?** What are the advantages and disadvantages of using an institutional online learning environment compared to Facebook or another freely available social media site?
- **Key issues?** From your own experience, identify areas students find challenging in the first Semester.
- **Solutions?** How might support be presented to students prior to enrolment; e.g. book lists, websites, self-diagnostic tests, discussion forums, contact with an existing student.
- **Any other issues?**



References

- Lefever, R. and Currant, B. (2010) *How can technology be used to improve the learner experience at points of transition?* University of Bradford. Available at:
<http://technologyenhancedlearning.net/files/2010/04/ELESIGliteraturereviewFINAL240210.pdf>
- University of Lincoln (2011) *Student as Producer*.
<http://studentasproducer.lincoln.ac.uk>
- Watling, S (2009) 'Getting Started' Pre-Induction Access to Higher Education'. In T. Bastiaens et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education 2009* (pp. 2232-2235). Chesapeake, VA: AACE. <http://editlib.org/p/32798>
- Watling, Sue (2009) [*Pre registration opportunities for social work degree students*](#). 11th Joint Social Work Education Conference (JSWEC) and the 3rd UK Social Work Research Conference, 8-10 July 2009, University of Hertfordshire.
- Yorke, M and Longden B (2008) *The first year experience of Higher Education in the UK: final report*, York, HEA
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/research/surveys/FYE/FYEFinalReport.pdf>